Agricultural & Lawn Care Chemicals

Indicator 6. Agricultural and Lawn Care Chemicals

At a Glance

Agricultural pesticides used in Kentucky
1990 . . . 9.03 million lbs.
1995 . . . 8.49 million lbs.
1999 . . . 9.20 million lbs.

Leading agricultural pesticides used in Kentucky (pounds)
Atrazine 930,908
Gyphosate. . . . 1,319,833
Metolachlor. . . . 900,452
Maleic Hydradize 689,460
Acetochlor 567,794

Collection of old agricultural pesticides
1995 . . . . . 8,700 lbs.
1998 . . . . . .37,460 lbs.
1999. . . . . 50,836 lbs.

Lawn care pesticides used in Kentucky
1992 . . . . . 598,000 lbs.
1997 . . . . . 553,000 lbs.
1999 . . . . . unknown

Background There is increasing concern regarding the health and environmental effects associated with the use of more than 20,000 different pesticide products registered for use in the United States. Agriculture accounts for 75 percent of the total amount of pesticides used in this country.[1] The use of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers has increased crop yields significantly. However, these chemicals can also run off the land, pollute nearby waterways and seep into groundwater.

Nationwide, an estimated 707 million pounds of pesticides were used for agricultural purposes during 1997.[2] In Kentucky, agricultural chemicals are widely used on the 5.2 million acres of land in active crop production. Kentucky farmers used an estimated 9.20 million pounds of pesticides in 1999. The total pounds of pesticides sold in Kentucky have remained relatively constant between 1990 and 1999. Yearly fluctuations in pesticide use are often associated with weather conditions and economic factors.

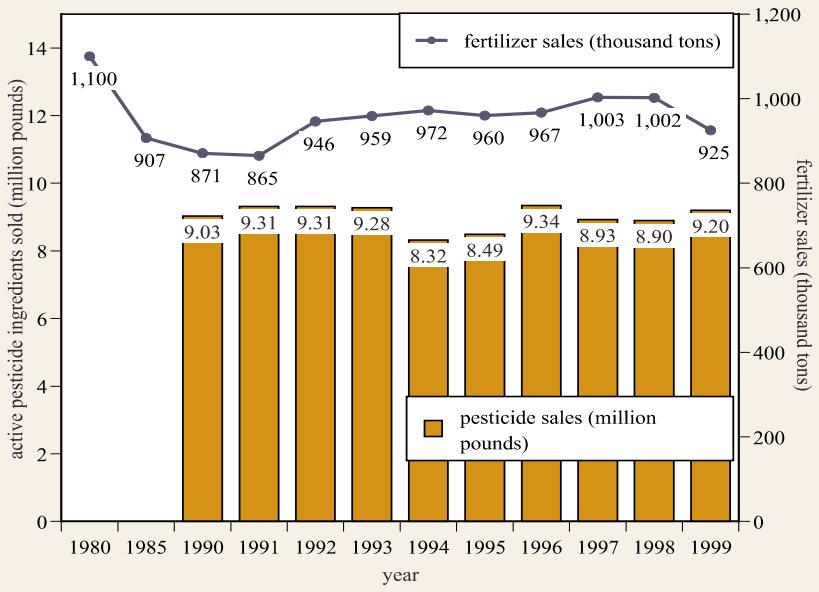
Five pesticides accounted for 51 percent of the sales in Kentucky during 1999. Atrazine remains the top agricultural pesticide sold in Kentucky and accounts for 23 percent of sales, a 3 percent increase from 1998. Atrazine is a herbicide used to control weeds in corn fields. Glyphosate, another broad-spectrum herbicide, is second in sales.

Goal Reduce pesticide use and ensure the safe use and disposal of pesticides.

Progress State efforts to promote the safe use and disposal of pesticides continue. The Kentucky Division of Conservation encourages the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—a program to reduce pesticide use on farmlands. However, it is not known how much of the state's 5.2 million acres of cropland currently utilize IPM.[3]

In 1995, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture initiated a program to collect old or unwanted agricultural pesticides related to farm use. During 1999, a record amount of pesticides was collected (50,836 pounds) from 202 participants and disposed of at the Liquid

Measure 1. Pesticide and Fertilizers Sales in Kentucky



Waste Disposal (LWD) hazardous waste incinerator in Calvert City.[4] The leading pesticides collected were: toxaphene, trifluralin, DDT/DDD/DDE and methoxychlor. To date, the program has collected 222,767 pounds of old pesticides from 727 participants.

The Kentucky Division of Pesticides also operates a rinse-and-return program for pesticide containers. In fiscal year 1999-00, a total of 96,000 pounds of containers were collected. That year, 110 counties participated in the program and 470,912 one-gallon and 329,901 2.5-gallon containers were collected and chipped for recycling—this is a 24 percent statewide recycling rate for pesticide containers.[5]

Footnotes

1. *Pesticide Sales and Industry Usage 1996 and 1997 Market Estimates, page 11, U.S. EPA, November 1999.*
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ky. Department of Agriculture, August 2000.*
4. *Pesticide Collection Program, Ky. Department of Agriculture, Division of Pesticides.*
5. *Ibid.*

Measures - notes and sources

Measure 1. *Pesticide sales based on annual surveys. Pesticide sales data not available prior to 1990. Source: Ky. Department of Agriculture, Ky. Agriculture Statistics Service.*
Measure 2. *Pesticide sales based on annual surveys. Pesticide sales data not available prior to 1990. Source: Ky. Department of Agriculture, Ky. Agriculture Statistics Service.*

Measure 2. Top Sales of Active Pesticide Ingredients In Kentucky